

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: GOA CHANGES IN WAKE OF KIRCHSCHLAEGER'S
ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY

REF: VIENNA 5586

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CHANCELLOR KREISKY ANNOUNCED TWO
CHANGES IN GOA ON JUNE 25, APPOINTING SENIOR CAREER
DIPLOMAT BIELKA-KARLTREU AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND
GUENTHER HAIDEN AS STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE.
APPOINTMENTS APPEAR TO BE INTERIM POLITICAL SOLUTIONS
IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS WHICH, ALTHOUGH
SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1975, MAY BE MOVED FORWARD TO AS
EARLY AS FALL 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH GENERAL ENDORSEMENT OF PARTY LEADERSHIP, CHANCELLOR
KREISKY, MOVING QUICKLY IN WAKE OF KIRCHSCHLAEGER ELECTION
LAST SUNDAY TO PRESIDENCY, ANNOUNCED ON TUESDAY,
JUNE 25, APPOINTMENT OF ERICH BIELKA-KARLTREU AS FOREIGN
MINISTER AND DIPLOMAT GUENTHER HAIDEN TO NEWLY CREATED
POSITION OF STATE SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE.

3. BIELKA-KARLTREU IS 66-YEAR-OLD POLITICALLY UNAFFILIATED
SENIOR AUSTRIAN DIPLOMAT AND AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE WHO
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WAS SCHEDULED FOR RETIREMENT THIS YEAR AFTER 44 YEARS

OF SERVICE. DURING PERIOD 1962-1967, HE WAS MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL AT SAME TIME DREISKY WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AND SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN CONSIDERED CLOSE FRIEND AND CONFIDANT OF CHANCELLOR.

4. GUENTHER HAIDEN IS 48-YEAR-OLD SOCIALIST WITH BACKGROUND OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE IN AGRICULTURE AND IN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO AGRICULTURE. HE HAS HELD VARIOUS PARTY AND TRADE UNION POSITIONS AND MOST RECENTLY HAS SERVED AS DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL FOREST ADMINISTRATION.

5. COMMENT: BOTH APPOINTMENTS REPRESENT, IN LARGE PART, INTERIM POLITICAL SOLUTIONS IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS. KREISKY'S MOVE STRONGLY SUGGESTS HE IS KEEPING OPEN ALL OPTIONS ON TIMING OF NEXT ELECTIONS AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS, IF NECESSARY, ON COMPOSITION OF NEXT GOVERNMENT. BIELKA-KARLTREU CAN BE RETIRED AT ANY TIME WITHOUT POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS AND HAIDEN IS LIKELY CHOICE AS AGRICULTURE MINISTER, IF SOCIALISTS WIN NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

6. IN INTERIM, HAIDEN, WHO WILL BE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROBLEMS OF MOUNTAIN PEASANTRY, IS EXPECTED TO TRY HIS HAND AT REALIZING LONG-TIME KREISKY AMBITION OF BREAKING UP SOLID PEOPLE'S PARTY PHALANX OF PEASANT SUPPORT. THIS IS TO BE ATTEMPTED BY POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND USE OF VARIOUS SOCIALIST SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES.

7. APPOINTMENT OF BIELKA-KARLTREU ALSO GIVES KREISKY FREE HAND IN WAKE OF NEXT NATIONAL ELECTIONS TO USE FOREIGN MINISTER POSITION AS BARGAINING COUNTER IN POSSIBLE SMALL COALITION OF SOCIALISTS-FREEDOM PARTY (FPOE), POSSIBLY OFFERING MFA TO FPOE, BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING OF CONTINUED KREISKY DOMINANCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FIELD. STILL VERY MUCH OPEN IS OTHER POSSIBILITY, IN CASE OF MAJOR SOCIALIST SUCCESS IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS, OF NAMING AUSTRIAN UN PERMREP AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH TO POSITION. KREISKY UNDERLINED THIS POSSIBILITY IN COMMENT TO PRESS JUNE 25 THAT, "HE (JANKOWITSCH) IS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOPEFUL MAN, BUT HE HAS A MISSION IN NEW YORK WHICH MUST BE FIRST COMPLETED (AUSTRIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON SECURITY COUNCIL UNTIL END 1974). THERE WILL BE NEW ELECTIONS IN 1975 AND WAY IS THEN OPEN."

8. KREISKY SCENARIO OF GOA CHANGES, TOGETHER WITH EARLIER PASSAGE OF TAX RELIEF AND OTHER LEGISLATURE (EFFECTIVE 1975), SUGGESTS STRONG POSSIBILITY OF

EARLY NATIONAL ELECTIONS SOMETIME IN SPRING 1975.

HUMES

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